

[1st February 1923]

*Appointment of bench magistrates in Salem.*

745 Q.—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR : With reference to question No. 924 and the answer thereto, dated the 15th November 1921, regarding bench magistrates in Salem, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether non-official presidents have been appointed to any of the bench courts of the Salem district?

A.—Non-official presidents have since been appointed for the Bench Courts at Dharmapuri and Yercaud in the Salem district.

*Memorial from Taluk Shroffs' Association.*

746 Q.—Rao Sahib S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR : With reference to question No. 1181 and the answer thereto, dated the 19th January 1922, regarding a memorial from the Taluk Shroffs' Association, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(1) whether the Government have considered the memorials received from taluk shroffs praying for treatment similar to that accorded to taluk clerks; and

(2) if so, what the result is?

A.—(1) The answer is in the affirmative.

(2) The Government have not considered it necessary to place taluk shroffs on a level with taluk clerks.

*Stay of heads of departments at Ootacamund.*

747 Q.—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Home Member and the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) who are the heads of departments in each department of the Secretariat;

(b) which heads of departments have been permitted to have their headquarters at Ootacamund for the whole year or for a portion of the year;

(c) when the orders were first issued for the change of the headquarters of such heads of departments to Ootacamund;

(d) the circumstances under which it was considered necessary that such heads of departments should remain at Ootacamund all through the year or a portion of the year; and

(e) whether there is any extra expenditure involved to provincial revenues by such location of headquarters at Ootacamund as compared with what it would cost if the headquarters of such heads of departments were permanently located on the plains instead of on the hills and what is the amount involved in each case?

A.—The Inspector-General of Prisons has with the exception of a period of two or three years had his headquarters at Ootacamund since 1859. The reasons for placing them there were that he was just as available to the Members of Government as if he were stationed in Madras and was centrally situated in respect of important jails, while residence there tended to promote his health and efficiency.

1st February 1923]

His location in the hills involves the payment of a local allowance to his staff of about Rs. 2,600 per annum. On the other hand, his transfer to Madras would involve paying his staff at Madras rates and the securing of accommodation for his office at a cost which would unquestionably be higher than anything that could be secured in the shape of rent for the buildings occupied by them at Ootacamund.

*Sale of pure salt in the Presidency.*

748 Q.—MR. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

- (1) whether it is a fact that the salt sold in the Madras Presidency contains many impurities;
- (2) what precautions are taken for ensuring the purity of salt manufactured along the sea-coast; and
- (3) whether it is a fact that the salt-manufacturing contractors, by bribing the subordinate officials, can manage to place in the market impure salt?

A.—(1) In so far as the salt made in the Presidency is concerned, an extract of the results of analysis will be supplied to the hon. Member.

(2) A copy of the rules governing the subject will be furnished to the hon. Member.

(3) If the hon. Member intends to imply that subordinates of the department are bribed to promote the issue of one quality of salt rather than another, there is no foundation for his suspicion. No salt that is not fit for human consumption is allowed to be stored and the salt sold is issued as it is applied for.

MR. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“With reference to the answer to (1) and (2) of the question, I wish to know whether the information cannot be made available for other Members as well?”

The hon. Sir CHARLES TODHUNTER:—“I would be very glad to supply it to any hon. Member who wishes it. I do not think that any hon. Member seriously wishes to have that information.”

*The Text-Book Committee.*

749 Q.—MR. A. T. PALMER: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (1) the personnel of the Text-Book Committee;
- (2) what their qualifications are;
- (3) whether it is a fact that much canvassing is permitted in the matter of getting books prescribed, especially in the vernaculars;
- (4) whether it is a fact that in many cases books have been prescribed which afterwards were found unsuitable for one reason or another; and
- (5) whether it is a fact that the price of books is enhanced after they are rescribed?